

widows and orphans of the slain. Other war-like expeditions followed, and in 631 A. D. Mohammed issued the famous command that, after four years, the Moslems would be absolved from every league or covenant with idolaters, and that thereafter no unbeliever would be allowed to make the pilgrimage. The same year he had a great sorrow in the death of his little son, Ibrahim. The next year, in great state, he made the final pilgrimage, but the excitement and fatigue told on his health, for he was growing infirm. From his sick-bed he sent out a last expedition, under Osama, against the Roman border; and, after a final address from the mosque pulpit, having given alms to the poor and counsel to his followers, he lay down to die on Ayesah's lap.

Muir tells the story thus: "His strength now rapidly sank. He seemed to be aware that death was drawing near. He called for a pitcher of water and, wetting his face, prayed thus, 'O Lord, I beseech thee to assist me in the agonies of death.' Then three times he ejaculated, most earnestly, 'Gabriel, come close to me!' . . . After a little he prayed in a whisper, 'Lord, grant me pardon, and join me to the companionship on high.' Then at intervals: 'Eternity in Paradise! Pardon! Yes, the blessed companionship on high.' He stretched himself gently.

His Death